

RECOGNIZING THE FARMERS AND
MERCHANTS BANK OF HALE,
MISSOURI ON THEIR 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hale. The bank is one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in Hale, Missouri and I take this opportunity to commend their dedication and service to their community.

On May 2, 1928, the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hale was commissioned and opened for business on the 9th of the month. Since its opening, the bank has only had six presidents. In addition, the Cowherd, Haynes and Franken families have all been involved with the bank from its beginning. When it was first starting out, the bank began with a capital of \$20,000; today, the bank's capital exceeds \$1,300,000 and has deposits of \$13,250,000.

The bank has truly evolved with the times. Photographs taken of the bank in 1906 and 1977 show that the building remained the same. However, in 1978, the bank celebrated its 50th anniversary and the raising of a new building. Artifacts from the original bank were taken and displayed in the new building, including the original vaults, the black iron swinging gate and the big old clock that graced the main lobby. These artifacts remain with the bank to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hale, Missouri on their 75th anniversary and for their many contributions to the 6th District and the State of Missouri.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONWAY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RE-
CEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by a public school in my District—Conway Elementary School, in the Ladue School District.

In April the school was named one of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by staff and students at Conway Elementary School was one of three schools in my District so honored. Some thirty-five public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year. Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the state, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, Mo., the State Capital. To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No

Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

Established in 1991, the Gold Star Schools program is sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the state of Missouri, with three in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the state achieve "Gold Star" status.

If that happens, we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of students. If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decision-makers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP
AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBER-
CULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF
2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003.

There is no doubt that sub-Saharan Africa is in the midst of a crisis because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Although only 10 percent of the world's population resides in this area, it is home to more than 70 percent of individuals infected by HIV/AIDS. According to the United Nations, 29.4 million adults and children are infected with the HIV virus in the region, including 3 million children under the age of 15.

Although HIV/AIDS has become a treatable disease here in the United States, the public health infrastructure in Africa is ill-equipped to deal with this pandemic. This is evidenced by the fact that, of the 4 million individuals who have reached an advanced stage of the disease, only 50,000 individuals are receiving anti-retroviral treatment.

This problem is compounded by the increased spread of comorbidities such as tuberculosis and malaria. Tuberculosis is a leading cause of death for individuals with HIV/AIDS, causing one out of every three deaths for individuals with HIV/AIDS. Incidences of malaria have increased dramatically in recent years due to resistance of the malaria parasite to once effective drugs, and increasing resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides. The World Health Organization estimates between 300 million and 500 million new cases of malaria each year.

That is why this legislation is so important. This measure makes a substantial investment

in our Nation's efforts to help Africa combat this horrible epidemic. The legislation provides up to \$1 billion specifically for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in 2004—a key multilateral mechanism for expanding prevention and treatment. It also allows the U.S. share of total contributions to the Global Fund of up to 33 percent, which solidifies our country's leadership and commitment to eradicating these diseases worldwide.

This legislation is carefully crafted, bipartisan, and will be truly effective in our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. I applaud the efforts of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee for their work on this important legislation.

SIEFERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CELEBRATES 100TH YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 29, 2003, Siefert Elementary School will be celebrating its 100th Year Anniversary, a historic event in the education of Milwaukee's youth.

Originally called Ninth District #1 when its doors were opened in 1903, the school was renamed Siefert Elementary School after Henry O.R. Siefert, who served as principal for 16 years. Siefert retired from Milwaukee Public Schools in 1922 at the age of 82, after serving Milwaukee area students for 63 years in numerous capacities, including teacher, principal and superintendent of the Milwaukee Public School System.

Located in the Midtown Neighborhood of Milwaukee, a community with diversity at its core, the school currently serves students from Head Start through 5th grade, and its mission is to ensure that all students reach their academic potential and become responsible, well-rounded citizens. The curriculum trains children to become competent, creative problem solvers, particularly in science and mathematics, and to be familiar with current technological advances.

Siefert Elementary challenges its young people, helping them develop the independent thinking skills they will need as they move beyond the halls of this outstanding school. It encourages each student to be an active partner in his or her individualized education program, working to achieve personal excellence in academics, communications, emotional intelligence and life planning in order to become a self-directed, contributing member of society. This Milwaukee Public School begins the process of equipping students with the tools required to function successfully in the global economy of the 21st century.

Celebrating 100 years of public education is a testament to how great things can be accomplished when students, teachers, administrators and parents work together. I salute Siefert Elementary efforts, and extend my best wishes for continued success in providing quality education for young people in our community.